

## **OHS National Dual Language Institute: A Time for Action**

**Oct. 28-31, 2008**

The purpose of the Dual Language Institute is to describe and disseminate approaches and resources that foster dual language development in young children, including their acquisition of English. The Office of Head Start identifies dual language learners as children learning two or more languages at the same time, as well as those learning a second language while continuing to learn their first language.

The goals are to

- Emphasize sections of the Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007 as well as existing *Head Start Program Performance Standards* in the area of dual language learning.
- Highlight dual language acquisition research for children birth to five and its implications for practice.
- Discuss the importance of dual language learning, including the acquisition of English, language revitalization, and cultural responsiveness as they relate to school readiness and positive outcomes for children.
- Provide tools and resources for programs to effectively support dual language learners and their families.
- Demonstrate and disseminate methods, approaches, and instructional practices for programs to effectively serve children, families, and communities.